

BARELY ENOUGH WHEAT FOR U. S. LATE ESTIMATE

Government Report Says
Winter Yield Smallest
in 13 Years.

Washington, May 11.—A crop estimate that in the view of agricultural experts banishes all possibility that the United States will be able to depend on its wheat crop in "feeding the world" has been made public by the bureau of crop estimates of the Department of Agriculture.

A winter wheat crop of only 386,136,000 bushels was the official prediction. This is the lowest yield since 1904 and the condition for this date—73.2 per cent.—is the lowest since 1888. The expected yield is hardly more than half the winter wheat crops of 1914 or 1915, and is 118,628,000 bushels short of the crop of 1916. No more dismal report has come from the Department in years. For comparison, the bumper crop of 1915 was 523,947,000 bushels, 207,811,000 bushels in excess of this year's estimated yield.

The estimate is even below the figures given one month ago when experts of the bureau thought there might be a yield of 420,000,000 bushels. The cause of the alarming drop was the wholesale abandonment of winter wheat acreage in some of the middle Western states. Nearly one-third of the acreage planted to winter wheat has been ploughed up or totally abandoned. Of the 40,000,000 acres planted last fall only 27,623,000 remain standing in wheat, a falling off of 12,377,000 acres, or 31 per cent.

The estimate of the bureau completely upsets certain parts of the optimistic statement of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States published yesterday which predicted a yield of winter wheat possibly in excess of last year. As a matter of fact there is no chance that it will equal it.

Officials of the Department of Agriculture refused yesterday to speculate on the effect the disastrous yield would have on the intentions of this country to bear the great part of the burden of feeding the Allies, but men familiar with crop conditions did not hesitate to say that unless the people of the United States are willing to pay for wheat \$5, \$6 or even \$8 a bushel, this country cannot send a single bushel of wheat abroad.

Thus if prices are to be kept from exceeding the present record, the United States, instead of distributing millions of bushels of wheat among the Allies, the United States must conserve every bushel for her own use.

Crop experts were led to their conclusions by several factors. One was that the United States has been drained nearly dry of grain reserves. Never before in the history of the country have the reserves of wheat been so low at this time of the year. Never, with a single exception, have the reserves been so low even at the end of one crop season and the beginning of another.

The visible supply of wheat at the last report was 20,000,000 bushels, compared with 43,000,000 bushels on the same date of last year. This is the lowest in history for a corresponding date, although two years ago, on July 1, the beginning of a new crop year, the reserves were down to 5,000,000 bushels. By July 1 of this year the reserves of wheat will have entirely vanished, it is believed, and the United States will be dependent solely on the new crop.

The normal consumption of wheat in the United States is about five and three-quarters bushels per capita or about 230,000,000 bushels. There must be added to this about 75,000,000 or 80,000,000 bushels which go back into the ground as seed for the total consumption within the United States up to between 305,000,000 and 310,000,000 bushels. This requirement for home consumption alone will not be met by the winter and spring wheat crops to be harvested unless the winter wheat improves immeasurably in the intervening months and the acreage of spring wheat is increased far beyond expectations.

The average spring wheat production for the five years 1913 to 1914 inclusive was 234,000,000 bushels; in 1915, the bumper year, it was 322,000,000. The spring wheat acreage will not be estimated until July 1. It undoubtedly will be largely increased but there is no assurance the bumper yield per acre of 1915. Assuming that the spring wheat yield is 250,000,000 bushels—16,000,000 bushels above the average—the total yield, with the 386,136,000 bushels of winter wheat, would be only 636,136,000 bushels barely above the known requirements of the United States.

When it is considered that since the war began the United States has been exporting wheat by the hundreds of millions of bushels, a forecast may be made of the situation which will develop this fall with a wheat shortage in nearly every country of the world. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 1916, this country exported 248,000,000 bushels, about two-thirds of the total winter crop estimated for this year. Although it is agreed that the warring countries will need millions of bushels more of wheat from this country, there is now every prospect, agricultural men say, that they will get millions of bushels less unless the United States is willing to deprive herself to the extreme.

The Argentine crop was so unpromising this year that the Government undertook an embargo, later modified it under pressure. Australia also has begun Government control of the wheat crop to regulate distribution.

GHOSTLY VOICE MYSTIFIED BIG PLAZA AUDIENCE

Spectral Form Glides Noiselessly Across Stage, Singing Sweetly As It Goes.

Do you believe in "spooks"? Not then you may not be interested in the narration of a little ghost story that one of our staff tells after his visit to the Plaza theatre last evening. We were not spectators but in passing we saw the Plaza was the scene of many a "spook" show and the ordinary and timid were handed many a fright, so how do we know that there

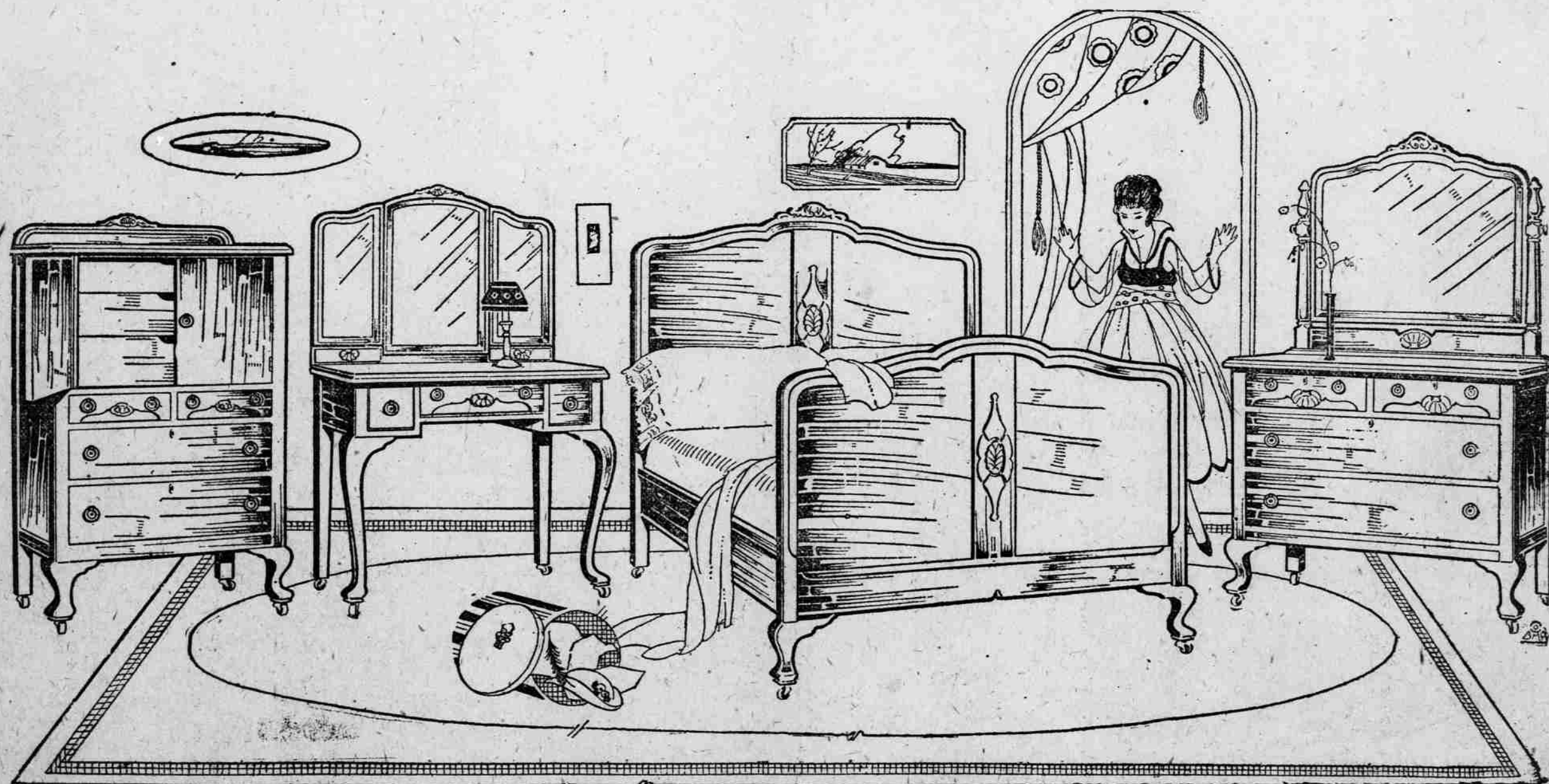
THE NEW CHIFFONETTE QUEEN ANNE SUITE \$99.50

Consisting of Dresser, Chiffonette, Triple Plate

Dressing Table and Bed.

TERMS TO SUIT

YOUR CHOICE OF MAHOGANY OR WALNUT FINISHES



Four Exquisite Pieces of Furniture

Built on new, slender lines, substantial in construction, this suite embodies an entirely new thought in furniture construction. The furniture which you purchase lasts a lifetime, so it is well to purchase the very newest in making your selection.

The Queen Anne Design Was Never Better Adapted

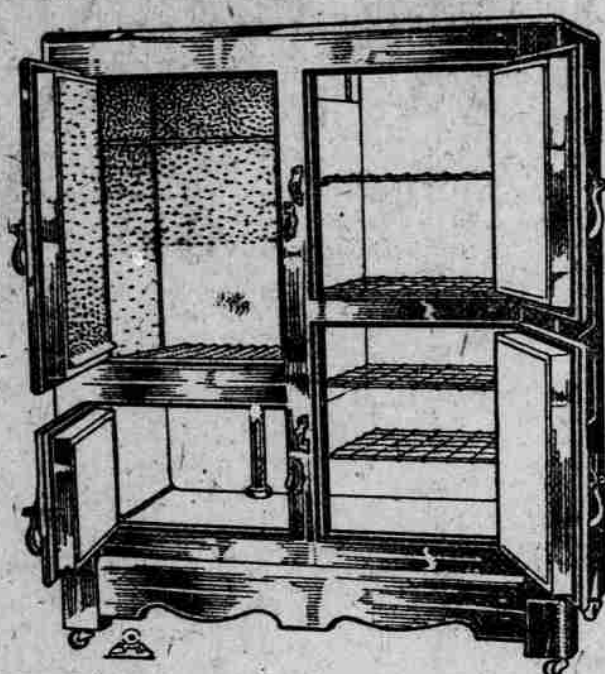
Every fine curve—every delicate ornamental touch in this suite stamps it instantly as the utmost in bedroom furniture at this price. Every construction note is characteristic of the Dutch theme that became evident in furniture during the reign of William and Mary in England.

In Walnut or Mahogany Finishes

There is but one way in which to reproduce with fidelity a period design. That is, as has been done here, to build the furniture of the woods first used in the construction of furniture of that design. The effect attained well justifies the extra effort spent in building this bedroom suite.

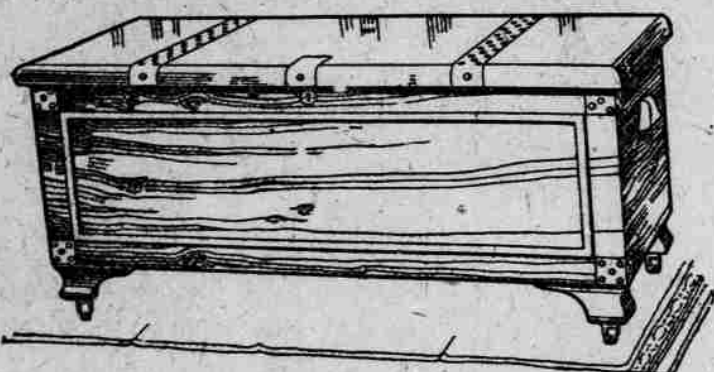
Why Delay Purchasing a New Bedroom Suite?

Prices are always advancing—the longer you wait the more you'll pay. Right now you may have the enjoyment of good furniture, at a moderate price, and on credit terms that remove any possible price reason. The chiffonette is a new departure in furniture construction—it is an article of great convenience, especially for men's apparel. Come in and see this suite.



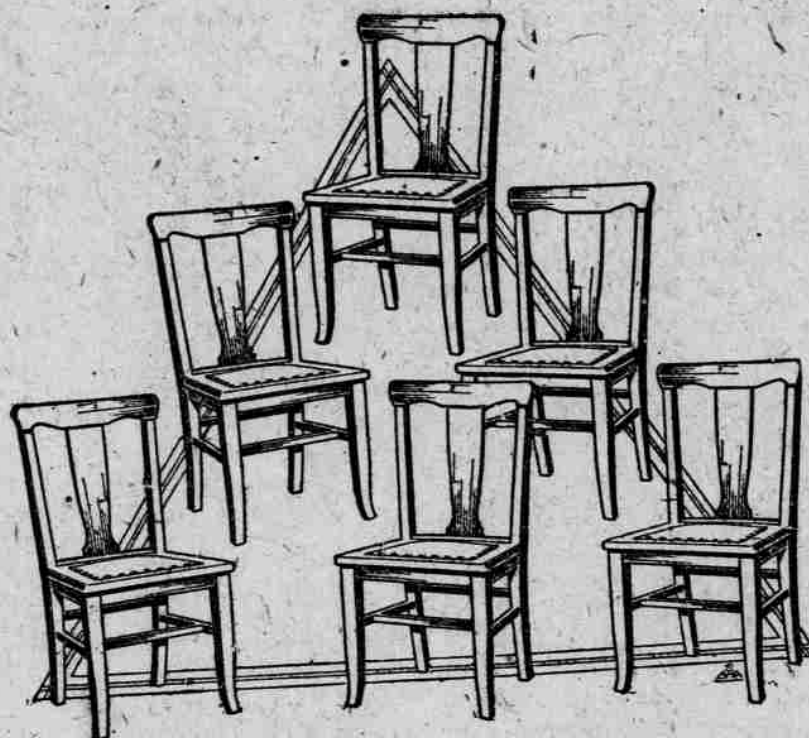
Reliable Side Icer. \$16.75 CONVENIENT TERMS

The Side Icer is the most convenient Refrigerator made and deserves your special attention for sanitary as well as economical features.



Moth Proof Cedar Chest TERMS TO SUIT \$12.75

Moth Proof—Mouse Proof—
Dust Proof—Saves Your Furs



SET OF SIX DINING CHAIRS Made of Oak \$5.95

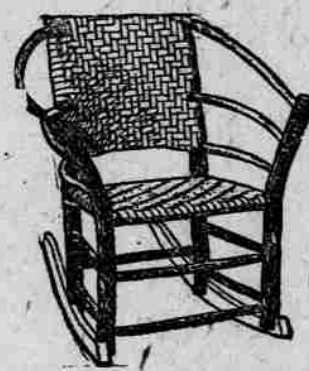
With Embossed Cabbler Seats

TERMS TO SUIT YOUR CONVENIENCE

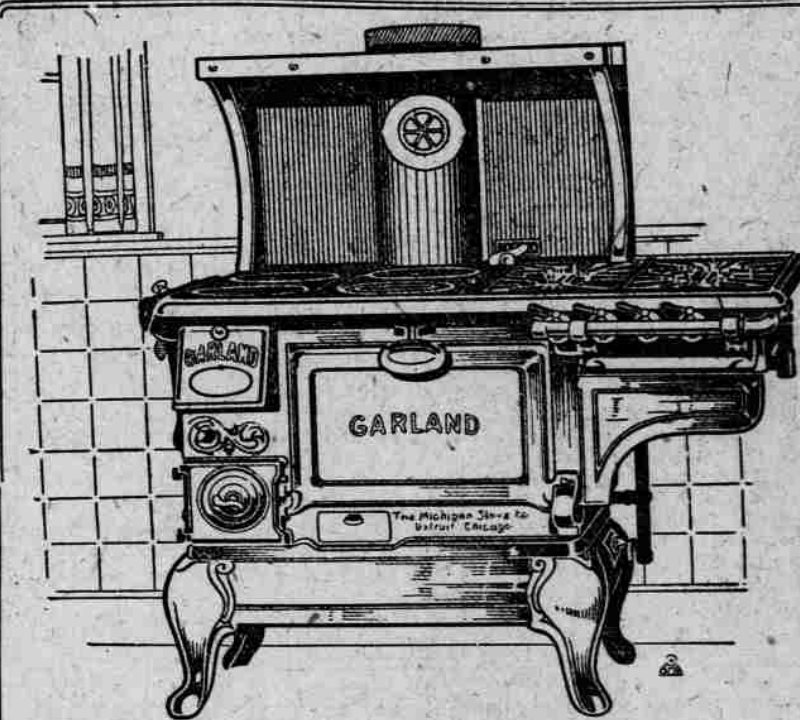
Hickory Jackson Rocker

\$3.95

Terms to Suit

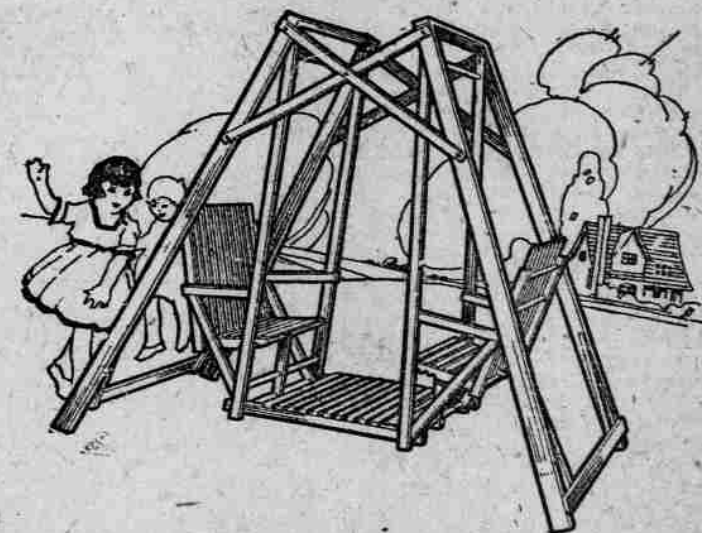


Hickory
Furniture
Is Rainproof,
Sunproof,
Stormproof,
It Is the Ideal
Outdoor
Furniture.



Garland Combination Coal and Gas Range TERMS TO SUIT \$69.50

Burns Gas, Wood and Coal for the same oven. A Cool Kitchen in Summer—a Warm Kitchen in Winter.



Four Passenger Lawn Swing \$4.95 CONVENIENT TERMS

COMPLETE HOME FURNISHERS
HADLEY'S
COR. BROAD + JOHN STS.

Isn't something deeper in the appearance there that evening of a mysterious singer, especially since his garb followed the same conventional lines of the common, every-day ghost.

First, in the distance, the voice, a beautiful one we will admit, was heard. It came nearer and nearer until the words of "Somewhere a Voice Is Calling" were easily distinguished. As the form glided noiselessly upon the stage, a morbidly green ray of light played upon it and

lent an atmosphere that undoubtedly caused many a bead of cold sweat to eke through the brow pores of some members of the audience.

Were it not for the fact that the voice was so beautiful, the effect might have been more weird. Of course, not wanting to be caught in the "trap," if there is one, we would not think of suggesting that it might again appear tonight, but if the press agent of that theatre doesn't pop around here in a short time with

some honest-to-goodness "dope" on what caused this strange phenomenon, we'll really believe it was "spooky." Probably he is too frightened to write about it. Probably he's trying to write a page on it. Probably he won't get it in these columns when he does show up.

General Chiang-Sun, heretofore bitter opponent of Chinese intervention in the world conflict, declared he was converted to war on Germany.

LAKE CO. EMPLOYEES HOLD FLAG-RAISING

An interesting flag raising was celebrated at the Lake Torpedo Boat Co.'s plant at the foot of Seaview avenue yesterday afternoon. Nearly 500 employees of the company headed by a bugle corps of a military detachment stationed in Bridgeport formed in line at the offices and marched to Building 28. Included in the formation were militiamen, fire-

men of the Lake company and employees. The American flag was pre-dominant throughout the ranks and the colors decorated a stand in front of the building from which R. H. M. Robinson, managing director of the company, gave a short and patriotic address. John Campbell, attired in the costume of Uncle Sam, raised the flag to the accompaniment of the "Star Spangled Banner," played by the bugle corps and sung by all assembled.

A military salute was given the flag by the committee of arrangements: C. D. Baker, chairman, F. Merriman, F. Christianson, L. Sherman, L. Hitt, F. Vason, G. Black, A. Reed, J. Johnson, W. Walsh. A chorus formed by the women of the company was a notable feature of the occasion in their singing of patriotic songs. The Lake Fire department was headed by Chief Hayes, Captains Healy and Willis.